The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled.—Bible.

WHOLE NO. 929. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 18, NO. 46.

WHY ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS FAVOR INJUNCTION

Movie picture operators in New York City are enjoined from picketing an anti-union theater. They are restrained

"from interfering with or accosting patrons or employes of the theater and others seeking to enter, and from impeding free entrance to the theater."

It will be noted how a legal right is interwoven with acts that are illegal and can be punished under the law.

No one has a right to "impede free entrance" to a theater or to other property that the invader does not own. A police man, not an injunction, is needed in such cases.

A man with average reasoning faculties can distinguish between "interfere" and "accost." The first is to meddle, to clash, to be in opposition. The second is to speak to first, to address, to greet.

The one implies antagonism; the other a desire to impart information.

A jury should decide whether a worker has violated law or overstepped his rights.

The injunction judge is not interested in enforcement of law or protection of human rights. He assumes that the theater owner has a first mortgage, or property right, cited for contempt of court and must prove in any prospective patron, and if a worker his innocence rather than his accusers prove would ask that patron to assist him in se- his guilt, as would be the case with the kidcuring better work conditions by not patron- napper or holdup.
izing that theater, this is considered an attack on property.

As the purpose of equity is to protect property where there is no remedy at law, the injunction judge has evolved a theory, that brings personal rights—patronage, good will and the right to do business—under the head of "property."

An equity court is not interested in free speech, free assemblage and other elemental rights. These are ignored whenever a worker interferes with a business man's patronage, which equity calls "property."

Under the injunction process a striker is never punished for doing the thing prohibited. He is cited for disobeying the court's order.

The striker is denied rights accorded a kidnapper or holdup man. The striker is cited for contempt of court and must prove

This permits the injunction judge to make "law," interpret "law" and enforce "law."

It is no satisfaction to the worker to be assured he faces equity court while the kidnapper and holdup face a criminal court.

The worker is subject to every mood and caprice of the injunction judge, who can jail or fine at will with no appeal by his victim.

The labor injunction overthrows the American system of government by law. A worker is helpless when caught in its net. It is so effective that every power at the command of anti-union employers is wheeled into action when its life is threatened.

UTILITIES VIGILANT TO MOLD PUBLIC MIND

Washington, Jan. 26.—Utility corporations create antagonism to public ownership because they are unceasing in their vigilance to control every public-opinion molding factor.

The scope of these activities were revealed at hearings that are being conducted by the Federal Trade Commission.

Paul S. Clapp, managing director of the National Electric Light Association, identified one report that 456,364 persons in New York state were appealed to in 1927. Another report explained plans to elect friendly officials of business organizations.

The secretary of the public speakers' committee of the New York public utilities testified that 312 speakers made 9,720 speeches in 1927. He said 280 other utility people were being trained as speakers. Radio talks were classed as "an important activity of certain companies."

Utility talks in Pennsylvania were made before associations of commerce, women's clubs, women's clubs, colleges and universities, high schools, grade schools, church groups, conventions other than utilities, radio audiences and farm groups.

Wherever citizens gathered a utility representative was ready to develop antagonism to public ownership. The testimony also revealed that whenever a utility printed an article that leaned toward popular ownership of these utilities, a protest was forwarded and the magazine furnished an article that had "the proper slant."

Labor Wins Half-Century Fight; Coolidge Signs Anti-Convict Bill

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Coolidge signed the Hawes-Cooper bill and organized labor has won a contest that has been waged for half a century.

The bill is effective five years after January 19, 1929. It enables states to apply their anti-convict labor laws to the products of convict labor that are imported into these states.

"The first move to carry out the purposes of the law should be the enactment of the exclusive statute system," said President Green. "At the same time legislation to take effect January 19, 1934, can be enacted by the various states to prohibit the importation into a state of convict-made goods manufactured in another state.

"Under no circumstances should organized labor favor the branding of convict-made goods that are imported into another state. If these goods are branded it legalizes their entrance into the state that desires to keep them out."

Steel Magnate Talks 'High Wages,' But Not For His Non-Union Plants

Allentown, Pa., Jan. 26.—Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate and professional publicity seeker, is again in the limelight. His new version of the Ten Commandments revolve around high wages, pleas to cease deceiving the public and to treat workers as business partners.

The Bethlehem steel mills are located near here, and the Pennsylvania Labor Herald, published in this city, refuses to join the cheer brigade. The "new economic Moses" is reminded that his talk does not accord with his practice.

The labor paper intimates that the Commandments were written for Schwab, and he signed the document with his own name.

"Does he mean that he is about to pay higher wages at Bethlehem, at Harrisburg, at Buffalo, at Sparrows Point?" asks the labor editor. "Where does he intend to begin? Which wages? On which better, when does he intend to begin!

The fact that he has ordained new rules for American business and has not illustrated his rules by his own example, short of it takes the fine edge off. Rude fellows who insist that a preacher have some sort of a moral character before he undertakes to reform others are likely to demand some evidence of sincerity. In other words, people will expect Mr. Schwab to show to the world how he has taken his own medicine and knows that it is good."

No. 6 of the Decalogue declares: "Welcome new ideas; establish permanent institutions; we must be prepared for change."

The labor editor inquires if this is notice that the Bethlehem Steel Corporation will abandon its company "union," which every employe is compelled to join.

DULUTH NEWSPAPER AIDS GOMPERS FUND

Duluth, Jan. 26.—The News-Tribune has contributed $50 to the Gompers Memorial fund that is being raised by the A. F. of L. Mayor Snively also made a contribution. The newspaper urges citizens generally to aid this movement which is intended to perpetuate the memory of an outstanding American.

The monument will be erected in Washington on the site now block of A. F. of L. headquarters. An appropriate site has been provided by an act of Congress, which governs the District of Columbia.

UNIONS ARE WORKERS' PROTECTOR; GREEN CALLS ON LABOR TO UNITE

Washington, Jan. 26.—Great industrial changes in our country make it necessary for wage workers to organize, declared President Green in calling the attention of workers of the trade union organizing campaign that will extend throughout the year.

"This great industrial change brings certain questions to wage earners," said Mr. Green. "Is the worker's power to buy increasing in proportion with his power to produce? What is happening to men and women who are displaced by machines, and how can wage earners be protected against this unemployment?

"New dangers to health come with new processes. High speed machinery means exhausting nerve strain. Injurious chemicals in new processes may seriously poison workers before they realize the cause. What protection has the worker?

"Trade unionism is the answer. The time is ripe for a concerted movement to increase trade union membership. The unorganized should be brought into the trade unions. Only strong organization can assure adequate living standard commensurate with modern industrial advance, and protection against emergencies and wrongs.

"Organization work is essentially educational. The unorganized worker must first know what a union is and what it will mean to him.

"We are working together in a nation-wide movement for human betterment. If trade unionism is to be the lifting force it should be in modern life and living standards, we need in membership the thousands of unorganized workers. And they need the trade union."

SHALL PRIVILEGE CONTROL THE AIR?

Opposition to organized labor's request for an unlimited wave length for station WCFL, owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor, shows how public opinion is stealthily controlled.

Station WCFL has a limited wave length. It can operate only in the day time when wage workers and farmers are employed.

There are 89 unlimited wave lengths. These are divided among corporations and other interests that ignore vital social issues and would keep the people ignorant of great social changes and of happenings "behind the scenes."

Citizens are unaware of these happenings because the avenues of information are controlled by those who profit by the status quo.

Organized labor asks the Federal Radio Commission to allot one unlimited wave length to the millions of wage workers and farmers.

They are at least entitled to the same consideration as public utilities or private corporations that are only interested in profit.

PUBLIC ARE FOOLED BY FAKE FLU CURES

Washington, Jan. 26.—"There is no known drug or combination of drugs which will prevent or cure influenza, declared Dr. W. G. Campbell of the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration of the Department of Agriculture in warning the public of false advertisements by patent medicine manufacturers.

The widespread fear of influenza has been taken advantage of by some manufacturers who have not hesitated to advertise their preparations as preventives or cures for the disease, said Mr. Campbell.

"Unfortunately, the Food and Drugs Act does not make false advertising statements appearing in the press, or in any advertising medium not included with the package of the preparation itself," said the federal bureau chief.

"The food and drug enforcing authorities are powerless to check such misleading advertising, serious as the consequences may be in the case of those who are led to depend on such ineffective products and neglect the simple but well-known precautions of the public health authorities such as isolation, rest, sleep, diet and proper ventilation.

"Products labeled as effective for this purpose will unhesitatingly be seized by authorities under the true meaning of the Food and Drugs Act and treated accordingly.

"It may not be amiss to add that manufacturers are usually cautious about putting unwarranted claims upon the labels of their products, knowing that they render themselves liable under the Food and Drugs Act. Those who are inclined to take advertising claims at face value will frequently find that the labels themselves or the circulars accompanying the packages of drugs, do not repeat these claims."

Chain Stores Dodge Charity Work; Have No Interest in Communities

New York, Jan. 26.—Organized welfare workers are worried over the refusal of chain stops and branch utilities to contribute to community charity chests and other social uplift. The new Antsentee landlordism has brought an acute problem to these social activities, as the chain stores have no interest in the community they serve. The same applies to low-wage employes who are constantly shifted to new localities. Corporations that aid community chests and other welfare movements object to the chain stores' refusal to do their share, and discouragements and other obstacles are developing in various localities.

The National Association of Community Chests are concerned over the problem and authorize a survey in the hope that absentee landlords will abandon their tight-wad policy. Directors of the association declare the problem is the most acute that welfare agencies have been called upon to face.

Henry D. Sharpe, Rhode Island business man and acting president of the association, said:

"The steady trend toward centralization of business, industrial and utility control in large cities, resulting in increased non-resident ownership of branches by smaller places, has created a situation that has a direct influence upon social progress throughout the nation."

PORTO RICAN WORKERS WILL EXTEND UNIONISM

San Juan, Jan. 26.—A general organizing campaign, collection of funds for the Samuel Gompers memorial fund in Porto Rico, and the building of a labor temple in this city were major decisions by the executive council of the Porto Rico Free Federation of Workingmen, at their meeting in this city.

Santiago Iglesias, senator in the Porto Rico legislature and secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, is president of the federation.

Vice presidents and organizers of the Federation were instructed to direct their organizers in their respective districts. Funds will also be collected for educational purposes. The movement will start on January 27, when every union will hold a public meeting in memory of the late Samuel Gompers.

The labor temple will be erected on land voted for this purpose by the last session of the Porto Rico Legislature.

N. Y. CENTRAL MEN WIN HIGHER WAGE

New York, Jan. 26.—A board of arbitration ruled that 12,000 men are working under conditions that would seem to be impossible in a great, enlightened state like Ohio."

New York Central railroad shop men 6-2-3 per cent. The increase totals 40 cents a day, one-third of the sum asked by the men. The company opposed any increase. The board filed its decision with the chief of the Federal Court and the award will be effective on the next pay day.

As usual, members of company "unions" on unorganized roads will benefit, as it is expected that these systems will partially accept the award to keep their employes out of the unions.

The shop men's case was presented by Donald R. Richberg, well-known attorney, under the general direction of Bert M. Jewell, president of the Railway Department, A. F. of L.

DENVER UNION BUSTERS QUIT IMPOSSIBLE TASK

Denver, Jan. 26.—The anti-union Employers' Association of this city has thrown up the sponge.

In a letter to the few members, the executive committee says that it is impossible to continue the fight with a declining membership and the "ceaseless boring in" by organized labor.

Pledges of moral and financial support have not been fulfilled and the union busters are forced to quit.

In the last financial statement to members, expenditures for "secret service" was among the largest in the list.

The organization was formed 11 years ago by the Ku Klux Klan and at one time flourished as a union buster in San Francisco. Following his death in this city, the executive committee of the Employers' Association attempted to carry on the work.

WOULD SELL POST OFFICE

Washington, Jan. 26.—Fred G. R. Gordon is wrathful over what he terms "socialism," that he would sell the Post Office Department.

Mr. Gordon assumed this Ajax pose when testifying before the Federal Trade Commission's probe of public utilities. The witness lives in Haverhill, Mass. He classifies all municipal and public ownership as "socialism." His writings and speeches on this subject have been paid for by public utilities.

WAGE REDUCTION PLEA SHOWN TO BE FUTILE

Indianapolis, Jan. 26.—"Steady work," promised by Ohio coal owners if wages were reduced, has not materialized.

"The operators double-crossed workers who accepted employment in their mines. Instead of giving them more work, they have less, a lot fewer pays," says the United Mine Workers' Journal.

The operators heaped their abuse on President Lewis and other officials of the United Mine Workers who insisted that low wages will not remedy conditions in the bituminous industry. It was a common pastime of Ohio operators to blame the union for not permitting them to compete with the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky that enforced low wages with the aid of armed thugs and injunctions. With a wage reduction, they said, they would shoot West Virginia and Kentucky operators how to operate with a profit.

"The union took a reduction, but the operators changed front and refused to recognize the union," says the United Mine Workers' Journal. "Instead, the Ohio operators resorted to the use of gun men, injunctions, starvation and other reprehensible tactics they so loudly denounced.

"If one-half of the stories that come from Ohio are true, men are working under conditions that would

OIL WORKERS ORGANIZE TO REDUCE WORK DAY

Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 26.—Oil workers have launched an organizing drive, and Peyton Bailey has been assigned Organizer J. B. Dale to aid this movement.

The oil workers are forced to labor 10 and 12 hours a day, although oil production has broken all records and owners are uniting to limit production. They are assisted by the federal government and by various state commissions. Only recently they abandoned the seven-day week for drillers because the flood of oil threatened profits.

The oil owners agree that 100 per cent production would wreck their industry, but they insist on long hours for employes. These workers have concluded that the only way to secure a short work day is to organize and take it.

COAL BILL ATTACKED BY YELLOW DOG LOVERS

Washington, Jan. 26.—Coal operators who oppose the Watson bill to stabilize this industry are more interested in their "yellow dog" control over workers, Henry Warrum, counsel for United Mine Workers, told the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce.

Railroad managers and retail coal dealers are also attacking the bill. The proposal is depicted as "unconstitutional, confiscatory and un-American" by frenzied flag wavers.

Mr. Warrum reminded the Senate committee that coal owners not only admit their industry is in bad shape, but some of them declare it is "hopeless."

"And yet," continued the labor attorney, "it remains for the workers to present a remedy. No one will say our proposal is perfect, but it is a step in the right direction. Opposition of coal owners and their allies is based on the fact that it would end their 'yellow dog' system, under which they dominate the lives of workers."

I. C. C. RECOMMENDS TRUCK REGULATION

Washington, Jan. 26.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has approved the principle of government regulation of passenger and motor truck lines operating in interstate commerce, men who profess opposition to "government interference with business," in favor the proposal.

The Parker bill, pending in the House, would regulate passenger vehicles. It also recommends that motor trucks be included. State commissions would be judge of rates. The question of whether these busses will have the right to operate between points that are now served by railroads and electric lines is also involved.

"MAN-HOUR" WORK YARDSTICK URGED

Washington, Jan. 26.—The true measure of industry's capacity to utilize labor is not the number of men and women at work nor the number of days worked, but rather the number of hours they work, declared the American Engineering Council at its annual conference in this city.

The engineers insist that the aggregate of employment should be computed in man-hours. Council officials were authorized to "take action seeking to have the number of man-hours working in the manufacturing establishments of the United States reported in the next and succeeding census of manufacturers."

Such a record, it is stated, would reveal accurate data as to accidents and would be an aid to unemployment legislation, tariff making and to investors.

FOE OF PELLAGRA DIES IN CAPITAL

Washington, Jan. 26.—Dr. Joseph Goldberger of the United States Public Health Service, world-famed scientist and discoverer of the cause and cure of pellagra, died in the Navy Hospital after a prolonged illness.

He caught death in Mexico when tracing the cause of typhus fever. He also contracted yellow fever and neared death when studying an epidemic of the dreaded dengue fever.

The lasting fame of this social hero rests on his discovery that pellagra is caused by bad diet. His brilliant discoveries, it is claimed, are second to that of Dr. W. C. Reiks, who discovered the cause of hookworm, and Dr. Walter Reed, who discovered the cause of yellow fever.

USE OF MACHINERY FORCING 5-DAY WEEK

Toronto, Canada, Jan. 26.—"Increasing use of machinery is forcing the five-day week," said Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., who visited this city to arrange details for the next convention of that organization.

"An incident which indicates present conditions was the fact that 2,000 men stayed out all night looking for jobs when Henry Ford advertised for 32,000 employes," said Mr. Morrison. "No country can prosper while hundreds of thousands of workers are unemployed. There are employers who realize this fact. For instance, more than one-half of the entire membership of the Brotherhood of Painters have five-day week agreements."

FRANK HOFFMAN DIES

Minneapolis, Jan. 26.—Frank Hoffman, member of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' Alliance and Bartenders' League of America, died in this city. He was 65. He served as first vice president of his international union since 1911.

"LESS MAN POWER USED; WOULD BAR FILIPINOS

Washington, Jan. 26.—"Our present prosperity is machine made. The use of man power has declined and will continue to decline," said Congressman Johnson, chairman of the House Committee on Immigration, in presenting a bill that would exclude from the United States all citizens of the Philippine Islands who are ineligible to American citizenship.

The measure would place Filipinos of the Oriental race in the same category as Japanese and other Far Eastern peoples, permitting their entrance for temporary residence only or for permanent stay if they are members of classes exempt under the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act of 1924.

The bill would repeal the law which authorizes naturalization of Filipinos honorably discharged from American military or naval service.

Mr. Johnson said he has information that thousands of Filipino laborers are coming to the United States, many of them from Hawaii.

"There are enough poor people in this country now," he said. "Every incoming laborer weakens the position of the American working man, who will be greatly benefited if relief from Filipino competition can be provided."

LOS ANGELES CAR MEN WILL AGAIN ORGANIZE

Los Angeles, Jan. 26.—A federal judge smashed the Street Car Men's Union in this city, but these workers are again discussing unionization. They were encouraged by William D. Mahon, veteran president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, on his recent visit here.

The injunction was issued by Federal Judge Bledsoe. It was a sweeping order, and accomplished its purpose.

Anti-union employers in this city were so enthusiastic over the order that they induced Bledsoe to resign the bench and become a candidate for mayor. They assured him success was certain. They overlooked the friendship of labor, however, and Bledsoe not only lost his life job but was defeated for mayor.

469 PICTURE EXTRAS OUT OF 15,000 WORK

Hollywood, Calif., Jan. 26.—A labor bureau operated by movie picture producers announces that only two persons of the 15,000 registered extras were employed on an average of five days a week last year.

Besides the two extras (one man and a girl) who accomplished the feat of working five days a week for a whole year, there were two girls and one man who averaged four and one-half days a week, three girls and 11 men who averaged four days a week and 15 women and 42 men who averaged three days a week.

Altogether there were 469 men and women registered at least two days work per week for the year. The rest of the 15,000 got along as well as they could.

MATTHEW WOLL RESIGNS; VOLZ NEW PHOTO CHIEF

New York, Jan. 26.—Nearly 3,000 members of the International Photo Engravers' Union attended a meeting in this city when Edward J. Volz was installed as president of that organization. He succeeds Matthew Woll, long-time president, who resigned because of other pressing duties, especially as president of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, with headquarters in Washington. Mr. Woll remains A. F. of L. vice president is not affected.

BUILDING EMPLOYERS FIGHT FIVE-DAY WEEK

New York, Jan. 26.—The Building Trades Employers' Association would intimidate electrical contractors into signing a five-day week pact, made with the Electrical Workers' Union, establishing the five-day week and raising the pay scale, it is charged. The charge is made by John W. Hooley, president of the Electrical Contractors' Association.

The Building Trades Employers' Association cited electrical contractors to appear before its executive committee to answer charges that it violated an agreement that the shorter work week would be handled by the association. The electrical men insist they have the right to make their own arrangements with labor.

MOVIE PICKETS ENJOINED

New York, Jan. 26.—Supreme Court Justice Mitchell enjoined members of the Motion Picture Operators' Union No. 306 from picketing an unfair theater owned by the Ward Amusement Corporation.

COMMISSION CONTROL HAS FAILED; UTILITIES DEFEAT LAW'S PURPOSE

New York, Jan. 26.—Control of public utility corporations in this state by the Public Service Commission has failed, declares the New York World in a leading editorial.

The commission was created in 1907 when Charles Evans Hughes was governor. This system supplanted the old practice of utility control by the state legislature. The people were assured that the utilities "would be taken out of politics" and that "a nonpartisan board would deal justly with the public and the utilities.

"These high hopes have failed," says the World. "The public has come to realize that its expectations of 20 years have not been fulfilled; that regulation has not worked as it was intended to work; that many of the old evils have continued; that new ones have developed; and that the intricate questions of law and administration which govern the case to the citizen of light, fuel, power, local transportation and telephone communication are in a desperate tangle.

"A few instances show all too clearly that, instead of making progress toward the solution of the problem of utility regulation, each year finds us more deeply enmeshed in a jungle of litigation and more discouragingly remote from the sound and effective control which was promised the public in the first years of the new system.

"The editorial says utilities now appeal to federal courts, while the state commission is helpless.

Attention is also called to the growth of holding companies that dominate the public utility field.

"These holding companies," says the World, "which shape the policies of their subsidiaries, have succeeded so far in enjoying complete immunity from regulation by the Public Service Commission because their status is technically that of stockholders rather than that of operators."

CLOSELY HELD PUBLIC UTILITY SCORNS PLEA TO UNIONIZE MEN

Washington, Jan. 26.—"Insiders" who control the Washington Railway and Electric Company, says Julian Pierce, a minority stockholder, a lesson in corporation control when he presented conservative resolutions at the annual meeting of stockholders.

Glowering stockholders remained silent when the resolutions were read. The chairman said: "There is no second to these resolutions and as there is nothing before us, this meeting stands adjourned."

The stockholders' meeting followed the annual meeting of the company's board of directors. The nine directors merely adjourned their meeting and convened as stockholders. Their ownership of shares and proxies for other shareholders made them the majority.

Mr. Pierce was the only other stockholder present. His resolution on unionism declared that the company's present labor policy antagonized thousands of members of organized labor in this city and that this affects income and lowers the market value of the stock. He urged the resolution the management would be instructed to notify the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of a willingness to permit employes to organize.

Other resolutions opposed an inflated valuation of $30,000,000 for merger purposes and instructed the board of directors that the corporation's funds should not be used for propaganda either for or against public ownership.

"I had no illusions when I entered that meeting," said Mr. Pierce, "if workers generally had the same experience they would realize how a handful of men, through ownership and control of a majority of stock manipulate public utilities while they are quoted in the public press on the need to serve the public and the value of community and employes' stock ownership."